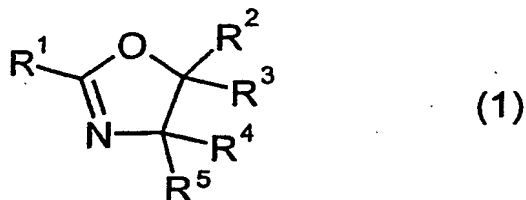


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of esters from a reaction mixture of an alcohol ~~[[alcohols]]~~ and an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid or reactive derivative thereof ~~[[acids]]~~, said method comprising ~~[[by]]~~ reacting ~~[[an]]~~ the alcohol with ~~[[an]]~~ the olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ~~[[a]]~~ reactive derivative thereof, in the presence of from 1 ppm to 1% by weight, based on the weight of the reaction mixture, ~~comprising alcohol and olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid/carboxylic acid derivative~~ of at least one oxazoline of the formula 1



in which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup>, independently of one another, are hydrogen or hydrocarbon radicals having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> may be identical or different, being present.

2.(Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup>, independently of one another, are hydrogen or methyl groups.

3.(Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~and/or~~ 2, wherein

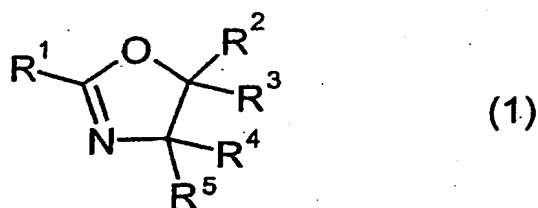
R<sup>1</sup> is methyl

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydrogen

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen or methyl.

4.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~as claimed in one or more of~~  
~~claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the at least one oxazoline ~~oxazolines~~ of ~~[[the]]~~ formula 1  
~~[[are]] is [[used]] present~~ in amounts of from 10 ppm to 0.5% by weight based on the  
reaction mixture ~~comprising alcohol and carboxylic acid/carboxylic acid derivative.~~

5.(Currently Amended) A method for stabilizing a reaction between an alcohol  
and an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid or reactive derivative thereof in a  
reaction mixture in the presence of a catalyst, said method comprising carrying out  
said reaction in the presence of a compound ~~The use of compounds~~ of ~~[[the]]~~  
formula 1



in which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup>, in which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup>, independently of one  
another, are hydrogen or hydrocarbon radicals having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms,  
and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> may be identical or different, ~~as stabilizers in the reaction~~

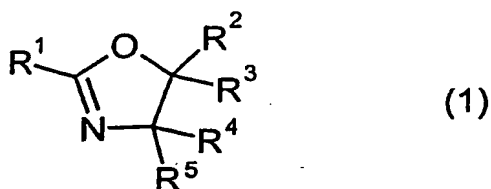
~~between alcohols and olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acids or the reactive derivatives thereof, wherein said compound of formula (1) is present in an amount of from 1 ppm to 1% by weight, based on the weight of the reaction mixture comprising alcohol and carboxylic acid/carboxylic acid derivative, of the compound of the formula 1 being used.~~

6.(Currently Amended) A composition comprising

A) an alcohol

B) an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid or a reactive derivative thereof, the molar ratio A) : B) being from 1 : 0.2 to 1 : 15, and

C) 1 ppm ~~[[at]]~~ to 1% by weight, based on the total weight of A) and B), of a compound of the formula 1



in which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup>, independently of one another, are hydrogen or hydrocarbon radicals having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> may be identical or different.